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POLAND: Status of Papal Visit

Postponement of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland next month seems increasingly likely, and could heighten tensions.

Archbishop Glemp arrived in Rome yesterday to discuss the visit. Glemp last week told [redacted] the government earlier had rejected a visit in August, saying it could not guarantee public order because of continued opposition activities. The Archbishop told government officials the visit is needed to calm young people and could lead to improved relations with the West.

[redacted] the Pope still wants to go to Poland but questions whether the Polish Government will allow the trip following Soviet press articles indicating Moscow's opposition. Cardinal Poggi, who recently spent two weeks in Poland at the Pope's request, reportedly believes there is only a "slight chance" for a visit in August.

Comment: A postponement probably would provoke new opposition activity, especially by those underground union organizers who had curtailed their plans for fear of jeopardizing the trip. The second anniversary of Solidarity at the end of August could become the occasion for widespread demonstrations.

The regime will continue to try to use the prospect of a future visit to dampen resistance. It also may seek to assuage public disappointment by releasing more internees on Poland's national day late this month.

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